

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DEEPENING DISAGREEMENT ON LABOR UNITY

REF: ROME'S 4945

1. BEING SUMMARY. THE SECRETARIAT OF THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) FAILED ONCE AGAIN TO AGREE ON A FORMAT FOR THE DISCUSSION OF LABOR UNITY PLANS AT THE APRIL 16-18 MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCILS OF THE THREE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS. ONE LAST ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE APRIL 14. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SECRETARIA OF THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) FAILED, DURING A FIVE-HOUR SESSION APRIL 9, TO AGREE TO THE "PROJECT FOR LABOR UNITY" PREPARED BY CISL CHIEF STORTI. CONFRONTED WITH THE FIRM OPPOSITION OF THE UIL MAJORITY AND GROWING ELEMENTS WITHIN CISL, STORTI HAS IN FACT ALL BUT WITHDRAWN HIS DRAFT PLATFORM. FOLLOWING THE SECRETARIAT SESSION, STORTI WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "THE PROJECT FOR UNITY EXISTS, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN IT WILL SURVIVE." A LAST-MINUTE EFFORT TO ARRIVE AT AN AGREED POSITION WILL BE MADE ON APRIL 14.

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3. IN AN EDITORIAL REPORT ON THE EVENTS, THE LEFT-WING ROME DAILY "IL MESSAGERO" WRITES: "PRECISELY BECAUSE WE HAVE ALWAYS SOUGHT TO UNDERSCORE THE VALUE OF UNITARY PROSPECTS AND TO FAVOR ITS SUCCESS, WE FEEL IMPELLED TO REPORT THAT LABOR UNITY YESTERDAY REACHED ITS LOWEST POINT" SINCE THE AUTUMN OF 1969. "THE 'NO' FROM (UIL CHIEF) VANNI CREATED THE PREDICTABLE ECHOES WITHIN CISL," MESSAGERO ADDS, "TRANSFORMING THE RELUCTANCE OF THE MARINI GROUP INTO OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT THE ALTERNATIVE OF PUSHING AHEAD WITH LABOR UNITY "WITH THOSE WHO WILL GO ALONG" (CON CHI CI STA), AS PROPOSED BY SOME IN THE CGIL, IS A "PERILOUS ROAD" TODAY BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO WILL NOT GO ALONG HAS INCREASED NOTABLY.

4. COMMENT: CISL CHIEF STORTI, FEELING HIS POSITION MENACED BY BOTH THE CARNITI-CREA LEFT WING OF CISL AND THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL ACTION GROUPS (GIP) AT THE WORKPLACES, IS EVIDENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF SHIFTING GROUND. HE APPEARS TO BE MAKING COMMON CAUSE WITH THE CISL CENTRISTS, LED BY MARINI, IN AN EFFORT TO ISOLATE CARNITI, CREA AND THEIR SUPPORTERS. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS NEW MAJORITY, HE WILL HAVE TO RELAX CONSIDERABLY HIS ADVOCACY OF LABOR UNITY. THE NEXT TEN DAYS OR SO MAY SEE SOME MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LABOR UNITY SITUATION. BEAUDRY

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